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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY China

DATE: 25X1X

SUBJECT Military Information: Nationalist Conscription
Activities, Kwangtung
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SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN
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1. Orders for the resumption of conscription have recently been received by the Canton Municipal Government. The Canton City Conscription Headquarters and several branches have been established in the city and plans are being drawn up to begin conscription on 1 October 1946.
2. The present work of the Headquarters is to make a census of all men within the age limit of twenty through twenty-three years (that is, men born during the 12th, 13th, and 14th years of the Chinese Republic). Conscriptionees are to be trained and used for the following purposes:
 - a. In case of war, for wartime military purposes.
 - b. During peace, for maintaining law and order within the areas where they are stationed.

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[REDACTED] comment: Since there are no records of births maintained within the Canton area, it will be an extremely difficult task for the conscription authorities to determine those who were born during the 12th, 13th, and 14th years of the Republic of China. There is actually only one record kept of all baby boys born in the villages, and that is the recording of their names on the tablet in the Ancestral Hall during the year of their birth. However, during the early part of 1946 the Canton Municipal Police attempted to carry out a local census. Every family was sent or given a form on which was to be indicated the name of the head of the family, the address, and the names of all members of the family, with their ages and occupations. If the local police are willing to cooperate with the conscription authorities, it would be possible for a list of eligible conscriptionees to be compiled from these census forms on the basis of the ages indicated. On the other hand, the police could cooperate with the conscription authorities to their own advantage in that for monetary consideration on the part of an eligible conscriptionee they could delete his name from their records. The Canton Municipal Police never hesitate to take advantage of an opportunity for exacting "squeeze". An American observer feels that the system of attempting to conscript youths between very narrow age limits is sure to break down completely and the conscription authorities will be forced to revert to the wartime system of making every shop responsible for furnishing one young conscriptionee to form a Merchants' Regiment.)

3. Conscription was carried out during the war by establishing in every province a Military Control Zone of which the provincial governor was the commander.

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-2-

This Military Control Zone had under it four Division Control Zones, each of which was responsible for one quarter of the province. Every Division Control Zone in turn was subdivided into three Regimental Control Zones, and these were responsible for conscripting, training, and eventual assignments of conscriptees to various army units. Shortly after the Japanese surrender the Ministry of War suspended national conscription for a period of one year. Colonel Tseng, a member of the G-2 section of the President's Canton Headquarters, stated that one of the main reasons for the suspension of the draft was to effect a complete change of personnel of the draft board. The Ministry of War, realizing the corruption of the draft board and the importance of the improvement of the quality of the Chinese army, planned to demobilize the old soldiers gradually and replace them with recruits obtained by fair conscription. When suspension of the draft had been declared, the draft board orders, also liquidated the Division Control Zones as well as the Regiment Control Zone. The commanding officer of the Kwangtung Military Control Zone is the Governor, Lo Cho-ying (羅卓英), and the vice-commander is Huang Shih-tu (黃世綸). They were recently informed that the period of suspension of the draft had terminated and that preparations were to be made for the resumption of the draft in Kwangtung Province. They are presently preparing to reorganize the dissolved Division and Regiment Control Zones. Kwangtung Province has been divided into four Division Control Zones with commanders as follows:

Central District	-	Major General Wen Ch'ing (溫靖)
North District	-	Liao K'ed (廖肯)
South District	-	Lin Ying (林英)
East District	-	No commander as yet selected

The officers and military instructors of the Regiment Control Zones are to be supplied by the Officers' Training Group. Preparations for provincial conscription are reported as being in the preliminary stages of formulation. Colonel Yang, the former Regiment Control Zone Commander of the Macao Area, stated that as of the present date no information regarding the new conscription rules had been received, and he personally believed that it would be impossible to carry out actual conscription before the end of November. Colonel Tseng stated that the President's Canton Headquarters had not in the least as yet been informed that the conscription was in any way ready to be carried out.

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